





## Crystal Springs Creek Restoration at Westmoreland Park Construction Update 6/26/2013

Hello Neighbors! Please enjoy the latest information on the Duck Pond Removal and Crystal Springs Creek Restoration.

**Crystal Springs Restoration and Duck Pond Removal** – this project was identified by the community and adopted by City Council in 2004 as part of the Westmoreland Park Master Plan. Restoring Crystal Springs Creek and transforming the duck pond into a wetland are essential components of the plan.

- Construction equipment and a fence around the area of construction are signs that the restoration of Crystal Springs Creek is underway
- Benches and picnic tables in the construction area have been removed and will be refurbished and replaced once the work is complete
- Native trees and shrubs have been surrounded by protective fencing during the construction
- Native mussels will be removed from project area by volunteers July 7 and 8 between 9 am 2 pm each day. Learn more about the mussel salvage at:

  <a href="http://www.crystalspringspdx.org/mussel-rescue-and-survey.html">http://www.crystalspringspdx.org/mussel-rescue-and-survey.html</a> or to sign up, email <a href="crystalspringscc@gmail.com">crystalspringscc@gmail.com</a>. These animals are important because they filter huge amounts of water over their long lives, provide food for predators such as raccoons, river otters and muskrats and are an indicator of stream health. Mussel larvae attach to coho salmon while they are developing. After several weeks they fall off and burrow into the sediment where they will spend their entire lives in the same area of the streambed where they first landed.

For more information about the restoration project contact please contact Tania Curiel at 503-823-5493 or Michelle Helms, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, by phone at 503-808-4517 or email Michelle.R.Helms@usace.army.mil.

## **Nature Based Play Area**

- Construction of the new basketball court south of the casting pond will be complete in early-July (both courts will be available through mid-August)
- Construction of the Nature Based Play Area is expected to begin in late-August

## Play Area

The play equipment between the creek and the walking path will be unavailable beginning June 10<sup>th</sup>. The remainder of the play equipment will be removed in late August. Your closest playgrounds are:

Johnson Creek Park SE 21<sup>st</sup> Ave and Sherrett St.

Sellwood Park SE 7<sup>th</sup> Ave and Miller St.

Llewellyn Elementary School SE 14<sup>th</sup> and Tolman St.

If you have any comments or questions – please contact Tania Curiel at 503-823-5493

## Wildlife

What animals live in and around the pond?

**Turtles** – It is possible that we will find turtles in the area that was the pond. Native turtles will be captured and relocated with assistance from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Native Turtles:

- 1. Western Pond
- 2. Western Painted

**Invasive Turtles:** 

It is illegal in Oregon to buy, sell, possess or release these non-native species into the environment.

- 1. Snapping
- 2. Red-Eared Slider

For information about Turtles, go to: <a href="http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/turtles.asp">http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/turtles.asp</a>

**Waterfowl** – Westmoreland Park has sometimes been referred to as "Duck Poop Park" because of the impacts of the large number of ducks and geese that congregate there. The most important thing the public can do to address this is to **not** feed the birds. Feeding is unhealthy for the animals and creates an unhealthy park environment.

Why NOT feed the ducks and geese?

- Loss of instincts. Hand feeding makes ducks and geese dependent on people, less afraid of people, and contributes to aggressive behavior.
- Overpopulation. Feeding encourages birds to concentrate in small areas, polluting the water, and adding excessive bird waste in Crystal Springs Creek and lawns.
- Environmental degradation. High concentrations of ducks and geese cause overgrazing and soil erosion.
- *Poor nutrition*. Human food like bread and crackers do not provide birds the necessary energy and nutrients they need for good health.